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ABSTRACT

This annual report highlights the activities of the Colorado State Library for 2000-2001 in the following areas: the Library Research Service; library development; school libraries and media centers; conservation/environmental education; networking and resource sharing; World Wide Web support; institutional library service; the Colorado Talking Book Library; the state publications library; and community programs. Related Web sites are listed. A fiscal year 2000-2001 state library budget summary is included. (MES)

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Colorado State Library
Annual Report 2000-2001

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Knowledge Is Power

This year has been exciting for the Colorado State Library as we work to make that maxim a reality. Four main areas highlight our progress and commitment to student achievement, Colorado residents and the libraries that serve them.

- The Colorado Council for Library Development, working with the Library Resource Sharing Board and other library groups, developed our long-range plan for library development, *The Future Is Now*. This plan, required by state law, lays out ongoing principles for library service and lists 14 strategic directions for the next three years.
- The first year of the State Grants for Libraries Program was a huge success. Nearly 300 eligible libraries (public libraries, school districts, and publicly supported academic institutions) received grants for educational resources under the venture initiated by the State Legislature last year. Local libraries report that the funds made a big difference in their ability to serve their users, especially new patrons, by augmenting materials, such as books in Spanish, reference materials, and on-line resources purchased economically through a state group subscription.
- The State Board of Education has chosen e-learning (formerly distance learning) as one of its ongoing priorities. This includes the realization that access to resources to support e-learning, along with information literacy skills to make sense of these resources, are critical. Thus, technology education and information literacy have been included in CDE's recently adopted "Rules for the Administration of the Accreditation of School Districts," as well as standards for teacher preparation programs
- Finally, our decade-long vision for the Access Colorado Library Information Network is coming to fruition. Now called the Colorado Virtual Library, it has been enhanced to include the ability to search multiple libraries online with one search, increased web site access, and the Colorado Virtual Library for Kids with resources for students and teachers tied to content standards. Best of all, one search can bring up books and multi-media resources in libraries across the state, along with publications of Colorado state government, web sites with immediate links, and digitized images in museums and libraries.

Together, the dedicated staff of the Colorado State Library are insuring that "knowledge is power" and making a difference in the lives of Colorado residents.

Nancy M. Bolt
Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

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LIBRARY RESEARCH SERVICE

- During the past year, the LRS web site, with studies, statistical information, and reports on libraries, received almost one million successful hits. In over 80,000 sessions, users viewed over 100,000 web pages and downloaded over 80,000 publications or data files. LRS.org averages about 2,500 unique visitors every month.
- The "Counting On Results" project, a two-year effort to develop outcome data for the many different roles of public libraries, is coming to a successful conclusion. About 50 libraries served as test sites. The tools generated by this project will equip libraries statewide and nationally to produce standardized, role-specific data on library outputs and outcomes.
- Because the annual survey of school library media programs was conducted electronically for the first time, joining the electronic annual public library survey, library statistics were posted to the web site months earlier than in years past. As a result, for the fifth time in six years, Colorado earned the national Keppel Award for data quality and timeliness from the National Center for Education Statistics.
- Ten issues of *Fast Facts*, the LRS issue-paper series, were published on topics such as the status of school library staffing; collections and funding; the impact of school libraries on Colorado Student Assessment Program scores; and public library materials budgets and related price increases.
- *eSchool News* recognized LRS director Keith Curry Lance as one of the 30 most influential people in the nation impacting educational technology during 2000.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Provided nearly $169,000 in federal Library Service and Technology Act funds to local libraries to assist student achievement and information access.
- Utilized more than one-half million dollars in federal LSTA grants to support statewide projects such as digitization of historic newspapers, improvement in school libraries, and access to subscription databases and training for librarians throughout the state.
- Secured funding for two Services to Special Populations scholarships for library science students studying librarianship in schools or other fields.
- Furnished support for a successful Summer Reading Program and related summer reading efforts around the state. Research affirms the belief that children who participate in reading in the summer maintain and increase their reading skills.
- Sponsored a workshop on forming a library district to help public libraries gain financial and governmental independence.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MEDIA CENTERS

- Completed a third year of involvement in the Power Libraries Project, providing staff development support, mentoring and assistance in collaborative teaching techniques to meet Colorado educational standards. Since 1998 the project has involved more than 60 schools in 30 school districts in the state, purchased more than 10,000 books, and helped establish long-term planning and integration of the library program with local district curricula.
- Obtained grant funding for a revision of *Colorado Information Power*, a manual for information literacy and school library services.
- Developed training and manual in conjunction with the Power Libraries Project staff development coordinator Betty Bankhead, to serve as a basis for outreach to schools, administrators, teachers, and library media specialists at all schools.

CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Coordinated Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) statewide for Colorado Division of Wildlife. Conducted workshops and meetings for hundreds of teachers around the state and agency/organization water educators, providing leadership in structure and programming to help them meet state student standards as well as discussion forums on state and local issues.
- In cooperation with the education section of the Division of Wildlife, provided guidance in natural resource education to teachers and students, within the framework of state standards and improving student achievement
- Updated and expanded the Environmental Educator Liaison database with the Colorado Alliance of Environmental Education to provide a specific contact in each school to receive and distribute information related to conservation, ecology and environmental topics.

NETWORKING AND RESOURCE SHARING

- The Colorado Virtual Library enjoyed record usage during the past year, with over 7,391,000 sessions on the web site.
- Released the Colorado Virtual Library for Kids. This resource, which received an award from the Colorado Educational Media Association for Outstanding Contribution to Information Services for Children, provides searchable access to over 6300 quality web sites for kids. The resource descriptions include references to Colorado Educational Content Standards.
- Obtained an LSTA grant to combine geographic information system software, library statistical software, and the statewide resource sharing system to provide library and media center directors with useful management statistics.
- For the third year of e-rate (connectivity to the Internet), Colorado libraries received nearly $1 million in funding.
- Began the rollout of SWIFT—StateWide Interlibrary loan Fast Track. This project allows libraries and their users to place requests for materials from other libraries using a web-based electronic requesting system. Twenty-nine schools and libraries participated in the pilot in Spring 2001.
- Completed the second year of federal GUI grants giving libraries access to the Internet and adequate equipment. A total of 57 libraries received

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$379,487 in funding. A recent survey found that 62% of the people who use Internet access in these libraries do not have access at home or work.

- The State Library, in conjunction with the Resource Sharing Board, sponsored a database fair for some 175 librarians and school media specialists from throughout the state to see a variety of online products.
- Worked with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to qualify libraries to receive up to $3.4 million in Gates computers and Internet access. The equipment will be distributed during 2002.
- Worked with Acquisition of Information Resources Statewide Committee to negotiate for a contract on behalf of all libraries in Colorado for online databases that support K through 12 education. An LSTA grant helped fund the cost of the resources, plus training for selected libraries for online databases provided through statewide agreements.

WEB SUPPORT

- Improved the CDE web site to comply with State Accessibility Standards for the Visually Impaired (derived from Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998).
- Developed and launched interactive surveys on behalf of CDE State and Federal Grant Programs.
- Developed and launched an interactive statewide education employment vacancy board.

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

- Purchased 6350 books, more than 1000 subscriptions and 188 audiovisual materials for institution libraries. Of those, 4429 materials were added to school libraries in youth institutions, and 3156 were for adult institutions. Materials support standards-based curricula in K through 12 institutions, enhance adult education programs in adult institutions, and provide informational and recreational reading materials.
- Worked with prison wardens, architects, education administrators and program managers to plan and implement start-up libraries or library expansions in eight adult correctional facilities.
- Provided information to the media on the "Read to the Children" program conducted by the library at the Four Mile Correctional Center, in which prison inmates who are fathers make audio recordings of a children's book to send to their children. Provided assistance to the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility to initiate a similar program.

COLORADO TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

- Enhanced the CTBL web site to include downloadable information such as an application form, available magazines, subject codes for talking books, and descriptive videos with movie ratings. The enhanced site also includes the CTBL quarterly newsletter and staff recommendations of "good" books.
- Actively solicited participation from school media centers by setting up deposit collections in school libraries to assist print-disabled children in acquiring talking books for class assignments and recreational reading.
- The CTBL's online-public-access catalog received 3,217 hits resulting in 12,821 searches in the past year. Web site application requests are averaging 80 per month and web site searches are averaging 720 per month.
- The annual survey indicates that 93% of CTBL patrons find the service is good to excellent.

STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

- Emphasized student, educator and public access to electronic state information by preparing and distributing a number of special bibliographies of state government electronic and print resources, including "School Research Topics," "Valuable Resources for Early Childhood Issues," "Colorado Business and Economic Information," "Wildlife in Colorado," and others.
- Developed workshops and presentations for the Colorado Library Association, the Colorado Educational Media Association, the Special Libraries Association, and others, to help reference librarians access state information.
- Received nearly 3700 publications from state agencies last year. With the major emphasis on electronic publishing, 296 publications last year involved Internet access, for a 64% increase over the previous year. This continues a trend of increased impact by the Internet.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- The newsletter, *Centennial State Libraries*, increased frequency of publication and revised format to improve service to readers.
- Exhibits about libraries, the Colorado State Library, and its services, appeared at six major conferences and events for librarians, educators and the general public. Presentations about children and literacy, the Colorado Virtual Library for Kids, and library services in general were made at dozens of venues throughout the state.
- Online and printed publications were prepared and distributed about services to schools, early childhood literacy, and parent–child literacy. More than 70,000 copies of "Reading Tips for Parents" (English and Spanish) were distributed.

Internet contacts:

Colorado Talking Book Library <http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl>

Colorado Virtual Library <http://www.aclin.org>

Institutional Library Service <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slinstit.htm>

Library Research Service <http://www.lrs.org>

Networking and Resource Sharing <http://www.aclin.org>

Standards in Action <http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_action.htm>

State Publications Library <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/>

Web Support <http://www.cde.state.co.us>

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William J. Moloney, *Commissioner of Education*

FY 2000–2001 State Library Budget Summary

Library Program Item	State General Funds
Personal Services	$1,087,341
Operating	45,204
CTBL Building Maintenance	45,000
Travel	4,401
Library Materials	101,899
Regional Systems	2,449,893
County Equalization	134,114
Colorado Resource Center	2,107,496
Payment for Lending	162,006
ACLIN	374,788
State Grants for Libraries	2,000,000
Reading Services for the Blind	93,800
General Fund Total	**$8,605,942**
Library Services and Technology Act Funds	
Personal Services	968,414
Operating	252,706
Travel	56,710
Capital Outlay	12,500
Local Needs Grants	177,840
Statewide Impact Grants	608,121
LSTA Total	**$2,076,291**
State Library Total	**$10,682,233**

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www.cde.state.co.us/index_library.htm